

Ranking Category—SEDIMENTATION ABOVE FEDERAL RESERVOIRS

Primary Resource Concerns—

- **Water Quality Degradation—Excessive Sediment in Surface Water**

Secondary Resource Concern—

- **Fish and Wildlife—Inadequate Habitat (Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern Addressed as a Special Environmental Concern) (Only species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern.) Reference:**

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/eqip/>

Eligible Land Uses—

- **Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture**

Additional Requirements for this Category—

- **To be eligible under this ranking category, greater than 50 percent of the application acres are within a federal reservoir priority watershed serving water supply needs designated by the Kansas Water Office (KWO).**

State Issues—

1. Answer the following question if the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). The agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.

(a) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If the answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (400 points)

2. Answer ONE of the following five questions related to the federal reservoir watershed. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:

(a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a KWO identified Priority 1 federal reservoir watershed. (340 points)

(b) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a KWO identified Priority 1 and 2 federal reservoir watersheds (must have a combination of these two watersheds). (300 points)

(c) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within KWO identified Priority 2 federal reservoir watershed. (260 points)

(d) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a KWO identified Priority 1, 2, and 3 federal reservoir watersheds (must have a combination of at least two watersheds). (220 points)

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(e) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within KWO identified Priority 3 federal reservoir watershed. (180 points)

3. If applicable, answer ONE of the following four questions related to drainage into federal reservoirs. If none apply, leave the answer “NO”:

(a) The entire unit of concern (100 percent) is located within a hydrologic unit code (HUC) 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to a federal reservoir. (20 points)

(b) The entire unit of concern (100 percent) is located in a HUC 8 main stem drainage that is upstream of a federal reservoir, above the HUC 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to the federal reservoir. (10 points)

(c) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100 percent, is located within a HUC 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to a federal reservoir. (15 points)

(d) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100 percent, is located in a HUC 8 main stem drainage that is upstream of a federal reservoir, above the HUC 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to the federal reservoir. (5 points)

4. Answer the following question related to at-risk species:

(a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) 12-digit watershed that contains an at-risk aquatic species **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the at-risk aquatic species habitat. Only AQUATIC species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (5 points)

Reference:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/equip/>

(b) Any part of the unit of concern is located within 300 feet of a stream that contains an at-risk aquatic species **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the at-risk aquatic species habitat. Only AQUATIC species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (10 points)

Reference:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/equip/>

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5. Answer the following question related to partner funding assistance:

Producer has secured funding for portions of the project from other contributors, which may include, but is not limited to, conservation districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, or other cost-share programs. (5 points)

6. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). If none apply leave the answers “NO”.

(a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) identified high priority (HP) TMDL watershed for total suspended solids (TSS), but is NOT a TMDL watershed targeted to meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Strategic Plan. (20 points)

(b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KDHE identified HP TMDL watershed for TSS, but it is NOT a TMDL watershed targeted to meet the EPA Strategic Plan. (10 points)

Local Issues–

Answer the following questions related to the application:

1. Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (250 points)

2. Application includes at least one conservation practice (CP) with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the electronic Field Office Technical Guide. (75 points)

3. CPs are scheduled to be completed within four years. (75 points)

4. Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2013. (50 points)

5. Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (50 points)